

buy insurance at the same discounts big companies get, this bill will help workers and their families have more health care choices and obtain greater savings. This change is overdue, and I urge the Senate to follow the House's lead and pass this good legislation this year.

NOTE: The statement referred to H.R. 525.

Proclamation 7915—Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 2005

July 26, 2005

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

On July 26, 1990, President George H. W. Bush signed into law the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This historic legislation provides a clear and comprehensive national mandate for the elimination of discrimination against individuals with disabilities. The ADA reflects our Nation's faith in the promise of all individuals and helps to ensure that our Nation's opportunities are more accessible to all.

The ADA has been a great success in expanding opportunity for disabled Americans. By reducing barriers and changing perceptions, the ADA has increased participation in community life and given greater hope to millions of Americans.

Because of the ADA, individuals with disabilities are better able to develop skills for school, work, and independent living. Our Nation has more to do to further the goals of the ADA. Through the New Freedom Initiative, my Administration is building on the progress of the ADA to increase the use of technology and expand educational and employment opportunities. We are promoting the development and dissemination of assistive and universally designed technology. We have launched DisabilityInfo.gov, an online resource of programs and technology relevant to the daily lives of people with disabilities and their families, employers, service providers, and other community members. We also require electronic and information

technologies used by the Federal Government to be accessible to people with disabilities. To ensure that no child with a disability is left behind, I have requested \$11.1 billion for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act in my FY 2006 budget—\$4.7 billion above the FY 2001 level. The Department of Education is seeking new and effective ways for students with disabilities to learn. My Administration is also working to educate employers on ADA requirements and further assisting persons with disabilities by implementing the "Ticket to Work" program and strengthening training and employment services at One-Stop Career Centers. Through all of these efforts, we are helping individuals with disabilities have the opportunity to live and work with greater freedom.

On the 15th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, we celebrate the progress that has been made and reaffirm our commitment to fulfilling the ADA's mission of bringing greater hope and opportunity to our Nation's disabled Americans.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim July 26, 2005, as a day in celebration of the 15th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. I call on all Americans to celebrate the many contributions individuals with disabilities have made to our country, and I urge our citizens to fulfill the promise of the ADA to give all people the opportunity to live with dignity, work productively, and achieve their dreams.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-sixth day of July, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:45 a.m., July 28, 2005]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on July 29.

Statement on the Innovations in American Government Award

July 27, 2005

I am pleased that my administration's Office of Management and Budget has received the Kennedy School's Innovation in American Government Award for its Program Assessment Rating Tool. I congratulate the hard-working employees at OMB for winning this award and implementing our management agenda. Taxpayer money should be spent wisely or not at all, and I am proud of the progress we have made to improve management and focus on results. We are changing the way the Federal Government thinks about program management and budgeting. We still have work to do, and improving the effectiveness of Government and providing good value to taxpayers will continue to be a top priority of my administration.

Statement on the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate

July 27, 2005

The United States has joined with Australia, China, India, Japan, and South Korea to create a new Asia-Pacific partnership on clean development, energy security, and climate change. This new results-oriented partnership will allow our nations to develop and accelerate deployment of cleaner, more efficient energy technologies to meet national pollution reduction, energy security, and climate change concerns in ways that reduce poverty and promote economic development. The six Asia-Pacific partners will build on our strong history of common approaches and demonstrated cooperation on clean energy technologies. I have directed Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Secretary of Energy Sam Bodman to meet with their counterparts this fall to carry forward our new partnership and provide direction for our joint work.

Executive Order 13384—Assignment of Functions Relating to Original Appointments as Commissioned Officers and Chief Warrant Officer Appointments in the Armed Forces

July 27, 2005

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 301 of title 3, United States Code, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. *Assignment of Functions to the Secretary of Defense.* The Secretary of Defense shall perform the functions of the President under the following provisions of title 10, United States Code:

- (a) subsection 531(a)(1); and
- (b) the second sentence of subsection 571(b).

Sec. 2. *Reassignment of Functions Assigned.* The Secretary of Defense may not reassign the functions assigned to him by this order.

Sec. 3. *General Provisions.* (a) Nothing in this order shall be construed to limit or otherwise affect the authority of the President as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the United States, or under the Constitution and laws of the United States to nominate or to make or terminate appointments.

(b) This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, entities, officers, employees or agents, or any other person.

George W. Bush

The White House,
July 27, 2005.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., July 28, 2005]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on July 29.